

WE CLAIM:

1. A ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising:
a capillary having a pair of opposing ends, an outer surface extending
between the opposing ends and a hole extending between the opposing ends for insertion
of an optical fiber strand therein;
a flange molded onto the capillary outer surface intermediate the capillary
opposing ends such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not
covered by the molded flange.

2. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange is molded from a plastic
material.

3. The ferrule of claim 1, further comprising a recess portion and a
complementary projecting portion extending into the recess portion, the recess portion
and projecting portion being formed at an interface between the capillary outer surface
and the flange.

4. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed in the
capillary outer surface and the projecting portion is formed integral with the flange.

5. The ferrule of claim 3, wherein the recess portion is formed integral with
the flange and the projecting portion is formed in the capillary outer surface.

6. The ferrule of claim 1, wherein the flange has a cylindrical outer surface
comprising a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion.

7. A method for manufacturing a ferrule for an optical fiber connector
comprising the step of molding a flange onto an outer surface of a capillary intermediate
opposing ends of the capillary such that the capillary outer surface proximate each
opposing end is not covered by the molded flange.

8. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
comprising the steps of:

forming a recess portion in the outer surface of the capillary prior to
molding; and

forming, integral with the flange, a complementary projecting portion that
extends intimately into the recess portion of the capillary outer surface during molding of
the flange.

9. The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7, further
comprising the steps of:

forming a projecting portion in the outer surface of the capillary; and
filling a space surrounding the projecting portion with a molding material during
molding.